

REMARKS

The Examiner has rejected claims 4-6, 17-19, 21, and 23-24 under 35 USC Section 112, second paragraph as being indefinite for lack of antecedent basis in claims 4, 5, 17, and 18. The applicant has amended the indicated claims thereby rendering the Section 112 rejection moot.

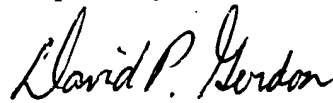
The Examiner has indicated the allowability of claims 6-8, 10-15, 18-19, 21, 23 and 24 if rewritten to overcome the 112 rejection and if written in independent form. The applicant thanks the Examiner for his review of the claims and the indication of allowability.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-5, 9, 16, 17, 20 and 22 as being anticipated by George et al. (3,186,643). The applicant respectfully traverses the Examiner's rejection for the following reason. As filed, claim 1 sets forth a "means external to said housing and to said rotary valve for closing the vent path..." Because the claim is set forth in "means plus function" format, the claim covers the means set forth in the specification and its equivalents. As set forth in the instant specification, the means for closing the vent path must be external to the housing and to the rotary valve. However, in George et al., the means for closing the vent path is *part of* the rotary valve; i.e., it is not "external" thereto. The means for closing the vent path in George et al. '643 works in a completely different way and therefore neither anticipates nor suggests the claimed "means external to said housing and to said rotary valve for closing the vent path".

Similarly, claim 16 as filed requires an “external vent control means mounted on the housing for movement by the valve to close the vent port... and to open the vent port...” Because the claim is set forth in “means plus function” format, the claim covers the means set forth in the specification and its equivalents. As set forth in the instant specification, the external vent control means is mounted on the housing for movement by the valve. Clearly, the George et al. ‘643 reference neither discloses nor suggests a vent control means which is mounted on the housing. Indeed, the vent control means of George et al. works in a completely different way, and therefore neither anticipates nor suggests the claimed “external vent control means mounted on the housing for movement by the valve to close the vent port... and to open the vent port...”

In light of all of the above, it is submitted that the claims are in order for allowance, and prompt allowance is earnestly requested. Should any issues remain outstanding, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney of record so that the case may proceed expeditiously to allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David P. Gordon". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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